



FEMA



New Levee Approach Community Roundtable

FEMA is assessing the approach used to analyze areas on the landward side of non-accredited levees on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and is developing more precise methods to identify flood hazards in these areas. It is FEMA's intent in developing these methodologies that they be flexible to meet community-specific conditions as they relate to levee systems, and result in the most up-to-date and precise flood hazard and risk information to reduce impacts to life and property. The Community Roundtable is an event that brought local communities and levee owners together to evaluate and test the procedures associated with the new approach. The goals of the Roundtable were to:

- Obtain feedback from the community on how feasible, credible, and collaborative the levee analysis and mapping solution is.
- Test the initial process framework and obtain input to produce guidance.

Specific local communities and levee owners were selected to be invited through a process that gathered potential invitees from a variety of sources and then narrowed that list through an evaluation of the list with respect to the questions and case studies to be used at the Roundtable.

The initial list of communities and levee owners was generated by asking for input from a variety of sources. First, all FEMA Regional offices were asked to submit names and organizations of communities and levee owners of non-accredited levees that they have been working with for ongoing projects. Additionally, major external stakeholder organizations were asked to provide names and organizations for their members that would be interested in participating in this process.

Levee-Impacted Studies

On-going flood studies with at least one levee system categorized as non-accredited may be impacted by the new levee approach.

A "non-accredited" levee is one that does not provide protection from the base flood per the criteria of 44CFR65.10. This includes de-accredited levees as well.

For more information on the development of the proposed approach please visit:
http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fh/m/iv_lamp.shtm

Levee Systems

Need more information on levee systems? Please visit the levee dedicated pages at:
http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fh/m/iv_intro.shtm

FEMA Library

The FEMA Library is a database of publicly available FEMA resources, including:

NFIP and Levees: An Overview Fact Sheet
<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2609>

Requirements of 44 CFR Section 65.10: Mapping of Areas Protected by Levee Systems
<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2741>

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Finally, the various members of Risk Analysis Division who have worked with levees over the years were asked for names and organizations of potential participants who have been vocal or active relative to FEMA's approach to mapping flood hazards associated with levees.

The total list based upon this solicitation for potential invitees was extensive. In order to narrow the list and target approximately 20 participants, several criteria were established.

These criteria were:

- Are the geographic areas that have high concentrations of levees well and fully represented?
- Are the various procedures of the approach represented by the levees owned/operated by the invitees?
- Is there an appropriate mix of opinions on FEMA's existing mapping procedures related to levees? (People who have been very critical, and people who have worked closely with and partnered with FEMA in the past)
- Are a wide variety of roles within communities and levee owner organizations invited (CEOs or designee, floodplain management, engineers, emergency management...)
- Are the right roles within communities and levee owner organizations invited to test the options in the case studies?

The following organizations were invited to and participated in the Community Roundtable:

<i>Organization</i>	<i>State</i>
Miami Conservancy District	OH
City of Grand Rapids	MI
City of Vincennes	IN
Sny Island Levee District	IL
Lafourche Parish	LA
Trinity Watershed Mgt Dept, City of Dallas	TX
Harris County Flood Control District	TX
City of Des Moines, Public Works	IA
Butler County Emergency Mgt & Commissioners	MO
Cape Girardeau Public Works	MO
Denver Urban Drainage Flood Control District	CO
Ventura County Watershed Protection District	CA
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	CA
Riverside County	CA
Maricopa County	AZ
Pierce County Public Works	WA
Trinity Watershed Mgt Dept, City of Dallas	TX
Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East	LA
North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District	LA
NY State Department of Environmental Conservation	NY
Santa Clara Valley Water District	CA

Following conclusion of the Roundtable, FEMA reviewed the feedback from the meeting and revised the approach as needed. The next step for stakeholder engagement is the Public Review and Comment Period taking place December 15, 2011 through January 30, 2012. During this time, FEMA has held three 90-minute online forums to present the approach to the public.